GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4459
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
PULLING UP OF INDIAN AMBASSADOR
BRAHMANAND MANDAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item regarding the pulling up of an Indian Ambassador appearing in Hindi daily `Dainik Jagran` dated August 28, 2002; and

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) The Government have seen the news item which appeared in the Hindi daily `Dainik Jagran` dated August 28, 2002 regarding an interaction of the Director General of the Russian company `Rosoboronexport` with a group of Indian journalists in Moscow.

(b) The Director General of the Russian company `Rosoboronexport` made a number of comments at this press interaction described in the news report. The comment of the Director General of `Rosoboronexport` referred to specifically in the news item was in reply to clarifications by an Indian diplomat who was also present at this press interaction and not in reply to an Indian Ambassador. The specific comment made by the Director General of `Rosoboronexport` and reported in the Hindi daily is not based on facts. This has been brought to the notice of the Russian authorities.